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Directors: Mrs J Gardiner and Mrs R Smith Headteacher: Ms S Dangerfield

Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last night, I attended a Headteacher's Covid 19 briefing for all Norfolk schools led by the Director of Public Health Dr Louise Smith; during the briefing she explained that although COVID 19 rates in Norfolk have overall gone down in the past couple of weeks, there has been a significant increase in 11-15 year olds testing positive.

In response to this information, myself in consultation with senior staff, the directors and the wider staff team have renewed emphasis on the general preventative measures which we know help to reduce Covid-19 transmission within schools. These include:

I am asking staff and pupils to stay at home if unwell and take a PCR test if they have symptoms of Covid-19. If your child is unwell in any way, can I please ask that they stay at home for a few days and that you complete daily lateral flow device (LFD) tests. If a member of your immediate family tests positive, please contact the school and together we will make a decision around how long you need to isolate for.

We will be ensuring that the school and classrooms are well ventilated, now that the days are getting colder, please ensure your child has a coat in school and is wearing plenty of layers, we will be keeping the windows open to provide the ventilation needed.

Students and staff can choose if they want to wear a face mask in school, but they will continue to wear masks on public transport including taxis and school buses (unless exempt). At this point, I am not making face masks compulsory in school.

We are being told that vaccination is vital in reducing transmission and preventing illness from Covid-19. I have been asked to remind you that if you are eligible and wish to do so, please take up the vaccination opportunity for yourselves and your child.

We are continuing to ask all staff and students from years 6 to year 11 to undertake twice weekly lateral flow device (LFD) testing either at home or at school; please continue to input these results at https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

I have asked staff to socially distance from each other within the school buildings, including in shared spaces and we are returning to online staff briefings every morning and online staff meetings in the evenings. We will not at this point be returning to bubbles not mixing as we are very mindful of ensuring our young people have the opportunity to mix socially and to feel able to move around the school freely. I am in essence creating a whole school bubble.

All non-essential events where parents normally visit the school will be held virtually, including parent's evening and the end of term church service. We have cancelled the Christmas Fayre and I hope to hold an Easter event which can use the outside space to avoid close contact.

All visitors will continue to be asked to confirm that they are well and that they have undertaken a LFD that day, they will not enter classrooms when children are present.

As always, I aim to balance providing the best possible school experience that we can for your children, with keeping everyone as safe as I can in these times. I truly appreciate your support, please do contact me if you have concerns over the information in this letter.

Kind regards,

Sam Dangerfield

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